

**Courses and entry requirements for admission in September 2025**

**Course offer and Pathways**

*Please find below our current curriculum offer.**Sometimes a course may be withdrawn if it is is not viable to run as a result of low application or enrolment numbers or because of national changes to the curriculum. Should there be any changes to our curriculum offer, this will be communicated with prospective students and further advice and guidance will be offered.*

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| **A Levels  *(students typically study 3 A-Levels or in combination with Extended Certificates)*** | **Extended Certificates  *(these are each equivalent to 1 A-Level and studied in combination with A-Levels)*** |
| Accounting  Art & Design – *3D Design & Technology*  Art & Design – *Fine Art*  Art & Design – *Graphic Design*  Art & Design – *Photography*  Art & Deisgn – *Textiles*  Biology  Business  Chemistry  Computer Science  Drama & Theatre  Economics  English Language  English Literature  Film Studies  Further Mathematics (This counts as 2 A-Levels)  Geography  Geology  History  Law  Mathematics  Media Studies  Philosophy, Ethics & Religion  Physics  Politics  Psychology  Sociology  Spanish | Applied Science  Business  Criminology  Dance Performance  Digital Games Production  Health & Social Care  IT  Law  Music Performance  Music Technology  PE (Sport & Exercise Science or Sport Studies)  Public Services |
| **Vocational**  ***(equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)*** |
| **T Levels**  Education - Early Years  Health  **Extended Diplomas**  Business  Forensic Science  Health & Social Care  Public Services  Sport Coaching & Development  Sport Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with Manchester City FC) |
| **Additional qualifications** |
| Core Maths equiv to 1 AS Level and studied in the first year only)  **This is an extra qualification (equivalent to 1 AS Level) and would be studied alongside an A-Level/Mixed Study Programme.**  This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/Further Maths). |

**MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

**A LEVEL PROGRAMME (3 A-Levels)**

A minimum of:

* 2 GCSEs at grade 6 and 4 GCSEs at grade 4.
* Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
* Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

**MIXED STUDY PROGRAMME (A combination of 3 courses from A-Levels and Extended Certificates)**

A minimum of:

* 2 GCSEs at grade 5 and 3 GCSEs at grade 4.
* Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and GCSE Maths
* Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

**VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)**

A minimum of:

**T Levels**

* 5 GCSEs at grade 4.
* Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language **and** GCSE Maths
* Subject specific entry requirements must also be met

**Extended Diplomas**

* 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.
* Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3\*\* in GCSE Maths for the following courses:
  + Business
  + Forensic Science
  + Health & Social Care
* 4 GCSEs\* at grade 4.
* Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a minimum of a grade 3\*\* in GCSE Maths for the following courses:
  + Public Services
  + Sports Coaching
  + Sports Coaching (Football with CITC)

Key:

*\* 1 GCSE can be replaced with a Level 2 BTEC qualification. This must be at a Merit/Distinction/Distinction\**

*\*\* There are some courses which have a variation of entry requirement in GCSE Maths & English*

***A student who has not achieved a minimum of a Grade 4 in Maths or English Language (and has satisfied entry reqs for their chosen L3 course) will be enrolled on to an appropriate Maths or English course alongside their Level 3 study programme***

**XL ACADEMY PROGRAMME**

* Students should achieve a minimum of 7 GCSEs at grade 7 including GCSE English Language or GCSE Maths (with no lower than a 5 in the other)

**COURSE SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**A-LEVELS**

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| **Subject** | **Qual type** | **Exam board** | **Assessment** | **Additional course requirements** | **Notes** |
| **Accounting** | A-Level | **AQA** | 100% exam | Grade 5 in GCSE Maths |  |
| **Art and Design**  **3D Design** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% coursework and practical  exam | No additional requirements | GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential |
| **Art and Design**  **Fine Art** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% coursework and practical  exam | No additional requirements | GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential |
| **Art and Design**  **Graphic Design** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% coursework and practical  exam | No additional requirements | GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential |
| **Art and Design**  **Photography** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% coursework and practical  exam | No additional requirements | GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential |
| **Art and Design**  **Textiles** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% coursework and practical  exam | No additional requirements | GCSE Art & Design is preferred but not essential |
| **Biology** | A-Level | AQA | 100% exam | Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two sciences one of which must be Biology).  Grade 5 in GCSE Maths. | Students are advised to study another Science including: Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geology  Psychology, Geography, Sport may be appropriate for some students with specific career aims  Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen |
| **Business** | A-Level | Edexcel | 100% exam | Grade 5 in an essay based subject |  |
| **Chemistry** | A-Level | OCR | 100% exam | Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science (or from two sciences one of which must be Chemistry).  Grade 5 in GCSE Maths. | Students are advised to study another Science including: Biology, Computer Science, Geology, Physics or Maths at A-Level  Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen |
| **Computer Science** | A-Level | OCR | 80% exam 20% non- examined  assessment | Grade 66 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences  Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. | Students also advised to study Core Maths if A Level Maths not chosen |
| **Drama & Theatre** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 40% exam  30% coursework  30% practical | No additional requirements |  |
| **Economics** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 100% exam | Grade 6 in GCSE Maths |  |
| **English Language** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 80% exam  20% coursework | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature |  |
| **English Literature** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 80% exam  20% coursework | Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature |  |
| **Film Studies** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 70% exam  30% non-examined assessment | No additional requirements |  |
| **Further Maths** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 100% exam | Grade 8 in GCSE Maths | This course is equivalent to 2 A-Levels |
| **Geography** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 80% exam  20% coursework | Grade 5 in an essay based subject | If GCSE Geography has been studied student must achieve a minimum of a grade 4 |
| **Geology** | A-Level | **Eduqas** | 100% exam | Grade 55 in GCSE Combined Science/Separate Sciences  Grade 5 in GCSE Maths |  |
| **History** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 80% exam  20% non- examined assessment | Grade 5 in an essay based subject |  |
| **Law** | A-Level | AQA | 100% exam | No additional requirements |  |
| **Maths** | A-Level | **Pearson** | 100% exam | Grade 7 in GCSE Maths | A student with a grade 6 in GCSE Maths to see Head of Maths |
| **Media Studies** | A Level | EDUQAS | 70% exam, 30% coursework | No additional requirements |  |
| **Physics** | A-Level | OCR | 100% exam | 2 x grade 6's and 1 x 5 as follows - 1 x 6 must be in Physics or Combined Science (6/5) and the other 6 in Maths. | Students **must**study A Level Maths or Core Maths alongside Physics (see A Level Maths entry req) |
| **Politics** | A-Level | AQA | 100% exam | Grade 5 in an essay based subject |  |
| **Philosophy, Ethics & Religion** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% exam | No additional requirements |  |
| **Psychology** | A-Level | AQA | 100% exam | Grade 4 in GCSE Maths |  |
| **Sociology** | A-Level | AQA | 100% exam | Grade 5 in an essay based subject |  |
| **Spanish** | A-Level | EDUQAS | 100% exam | Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish or native speaker |  |

**EXTENDED CERTIFICATES (equivalent to 1 A-Level)**

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| **Subject** | **Qual type** | **Exam board** | **Assessment** | **Additional course requirements** | | **Notes** |
| **Applied Science** | Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | 4 mandatory units, of which 3 are externally assessed. | Grade 44 in GCSE Science and Grade 4 in GCSE Maths | | **This course cannot be studied alongside A-Level Science subjects** |
| **Business** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | 58% exam 42% non-examined  assessment | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Criminology** | Applied Diploma | Eduqas | 50% exam 50% controlled assessment | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Dance (Performance Dance)** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | Mix of internal and external assessment | | Students must attend a dance audition and should demonstrate some dance experience/ability |  |
| **Digital Games**  **Production** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | **Pearson** | Mix of internal and external assessment | | Grade 4 in GCSE Maths is desirable |  |
| **Health & Social Care** | Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | There are 4 units on this course 2 mandatory and 2 external | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Information Technology** | Level 3 AAQ BTEC National Extended Certificate | **Pearson** | There are 4 units of which 2 are mandatory and 2 are external. | | Grade 4 in GCSE Maths |  |
| **Law** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | **Pearson** | 58% exam 42% non-examined  assessment | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Music Performance** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | Mix of internal and external assessment | | Students must attend a music audition and should demonstrate some music experience/ability |  |
| **Music Technology** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | 33% exam 67% non-examined  assessment | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Public Services** | Level 3 NcFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate | NCFE | 100% internal assessment | | No additional requirements |  |
| **Sport -**  **Sport & Exercise Science** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | Mix of internal and external assessments | | Grade 54 in GCSE Science |  |
| **Sport -**  **Sports Studies** | Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate | Pearson | Mix of internal and external assessments | | No additional requirements |  |

**VOCATIONAL (equivalent to 3 A-Levels and studied as a standalone qualification)**

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| **Course** | **Course type** | **Exam board** | **Assessment** | **Additional course requirements** |
| **Business** | Extended Diploma | Pearson | 42% exam  58% non-examined  assessment | 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths |
| **Education (Early Years)** | T Level |  |  | 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language **and** GCSE Maths |
| **Forensic Science** | Extended Diploma | Pearson | 42% exam  58% non-examined  assessment | 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language, GCSE Maths **and** GCSE Science |
| **Health (Adult nursing)** | T Level |  |  | 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language, GCSE Maths **and** GCSE Science |
| **Health & Social Care** | Extended Diploma | Pearson | A mix of internal and  external assessment | 5 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths |
| **Public Services** | Extended Diploma | NcFE | 100% Internal assessment | 4 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths |
| **Sports Coaching & Development** | Extended Diploma | Pearson | 100% Internal assessment | 4 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths |
| **Sports Coaching & Development (Football) - in partnership with CITC)** | Extended Diploma | Pearson | 100% Internal assessment | 4 GCSEs\* at grade 4.  Grade 4 required in GCSE English Language and a 3 in GCSE Maths *Applicants will need to discuss this course with the CITC team to check suitability* |

**ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

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| **Course** | **Course type** | **Exam board** | **Enrolment information** |
| **Core Maths** | Level 3 Certificate | **AQA** | **This is an extra qualification (equiv to 1 AS Level) studies in the A1 year alongside 3 x course choices.** This qualification would suit students choosing to study Psychology, Sociology, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Applied Science, Accounting, Economics and Business (or any course with a Maths element except A-level Maths/F Maths). **Students must not have chosen to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.** |
| **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** | Level 3 EPQ | AQA | The EPQ is an additional qualification studied in the A2 year, equivalent to 1 AS Level, that allows you to develop your personal interest in a topic or area that interests you. |